



IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (Currently amended) In a drive socket of a threaded male fastener which is driven by a key wrench driver having a plurality of flat surfaces and a plurality of corners at intersections between the plurality of flat surfaces, the improvement comprising:

a plurality of rounded lobes defined in the drive socket, said plurality of rounded lobes being positioned about a center of the drive socket of the fastener, said plurality of rounded lobes including contact surfaces, the plurality of rounded lobes receiving a set of alternating ones of said plurality of flat surfaces of the key wrench driver;

a plurality of flat non-contact sections defined in the drive socket, said plurality of flat non-contact sections being positioned about the center of the fastener and including non-contact surfaces, each non-contact section being located between adjacent rounded lobes and substantially opposite one of the rounded lobes, and the plurality of corners of the key wrench driver remaining out of contact with said plurality of flat non-contact sections; and

curved recesses defined in the drive socket, said curved recesses being located transitioning between the flat non-contact sections and the adjacent rounded lobes, and the plurality of corners of the key wrench driver remaining out of contact with said curved recesses.

Claim 21 (Previously presented) The drive socket of claim 20, wherein each of the rounded lobes projects inward toward the center of the fastener.

Claim 22 (Cancelled)

Claim 23 (Currently amended) The drive socket of claim 20, wherein the rounded lobes are positioned to provide a first clearance between an apex of each of the rounded lobes and corresponding surfaces on a key wrench driver inserted into the drive socket, and the flat non-contact sections are positioned to provide a second clearance between the flat non-contact sections and corresponding surfaces on the key wrench driver.

Claim 24 (Previously presented) The drive socket of claim 23, wherein: the first clearance is approximately 0.04 mm (0.0015 inch); and the second clearance approximately 0.10 mm (0.0038 inch).

Claim 25 (Currently amended) The drive socket of claim 20, wherein the recesses are sized to provide sufficient clearance such that the corners of a key wrench driver inserted into the drive socket do not contact a wall of the drive socket.

Claims 26-29 (Cancelled)